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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: OTRA, PREL, EAID, ZI, US, MZ
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SENATE STAFFERS BOND AND MCGHEE

1. C-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: JAMES BOND, DIRECTOR OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREIGN OPERATIONS AND STAFF MEMBER JANE MCGHEE VISITED HARARE FROM JULY 16-19. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, BOND AND MCGHEE MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLICAN FRONT, ZAPU, AND THE INDEPENDENTS. OFFICIALS FROM SEVERAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL BRIEFED BOND AND MCGHEE ON VARIOUS DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAMS. AT A LUNCH IN THEIR HONOR ON JULY 18, BOND AND MCGHEE MET WITH SENIOR/INFLUENTIAL ZIMBABWEANS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. ON 19 JULY, THE TWO VISITED BELVEDERE TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE, AN AID-FUNDED INSTITUTION, AND STAPELFORD FARM, WHICH IS INVOLVED IN COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION OF SEED MAIZE, PIGS, CATTLE, AND VEGETABLES. END SUMMARY.

3. AFTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MILLER AND THE COUNTRY TEAM, BOND AND MCGHEE HELD DISCUSSIONS ON JULY 17-18 WITH LOCAL POLITICIANS WHO HOLD DIVERGENT VIEWS ON ZIMBABWE. ZAPU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ARISTON CHAMBATI (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF TA HOLDINGS) SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE GOZ'S ATTITUDES TOWARD ZAPU; THE GOZ'S DRIFT TOWARD A ONE-PARTY STATE; AND THE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACING THE PRIVATE SECTOR. REPUBLICAN FRONT CHAIRMAN IAN SMITH PRESENTED BOND AND MCGHEE WITH HIS VIEWS ON HOW TO MAKE ZIMBABWE WORK AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE GOZ'S RECENT ANTI-ZAPU MOVES WOULD BE HARMFUL TO ZIMBABWE'S FUTURE. NOT SURPRISINGLY, SMITH ASKED FOR GREATER U.S. PRESSURE IN KEEPING THE GOZ "ON THE RIGHT TRACK." INDEPENDENT SENATORS MAX ROSENFELS AND BRIAN GRUBB GAVE CONTRASTING VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE THAT REFLECT IN LARGE PART THEIR DIFFERENT VOCATIONS AND LOCATIONS. (ROSENFELS, A FARMER FROM MATABELELAND, PAINTED A BLEAK PICTURE WHILE GRUBB, A BUSINESSMAN FROM HARARE, WAS MUCH MORE UPBEAT).

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4. ON JULY 18, OFFICIALS FROM SEVERAL NONGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES GAVE BOND AND MCGHEE A WRAP-UP ON THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE IN ADMINISTERING DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAMS. THEY STRESSED THE NEED FOR GREATER COORDINATION BETWEEN THE GOZ AND THE NGOS AND THE NEED FOR MORE FLEXIBLE AID COMMITMENTS. THE NGOS HOPE TO BE DISTRIBUTING SEED PACKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT TO THE MOZAMBIKAN REFUGEES LATER THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO GET THEM OFF TO A GOOD START WHEN THEY RETURN TO MOZAMBIQUE. BOND AND MCGHEE ALSO MET WITH DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE SANYANGORE ON JULY 18. ALTHOUGH CORDIAL, THE MEETING WAS NOT PARTICULARLY SUBSTANTIVE, WITH SANYANGORE OUTLINING THE GOZ DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAM IN A CONFUSING MANNER. REGARDING MATABELELAND, SANYANGORE ASSURED BOND AND MCGHEE THAT THE GOZ WAS CONCERNED WITH SEEING THAT THE NEEDY RECEIVE FOOD AND THAT THERE WERE NO RESTRICTIONS ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION. SANYANGORE REITERATED THE FAMILAR GOZ LINE THAT THE DISSIDENTS DID CAUSE PROBLEMS AND THAT ZAPU SHOULD ACCEPT THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP BEING OFFERED.

5. ON JULY 18, BOND AND MCGHEE ATTENDED A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DCM WITH A GROUP OF INFLUENTIAL ZIMBABWEANS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS. ATTENDING WERE:

MR. A.M. CHAMBATI, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF T.A. HOLDINGS;
MR. BILL LONG, GENERAL MANAGER, GRAIN MARKETING BOARD;
MR. E. MUSHAYAKARARA, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FINANCE,
-- ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT;
MR. T. MUTUNHU, GENERAL MANAGER, AGRICULTURAL FINANCE
-- CORPORATION
MR. B. MANCAMA, CHAIRMAN, COTTON MARKETING BOARD;
MS. L. MUWINGI, ECONOMIST, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE.

BOND AND MCGHEE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTING ZIMBABWE, INCLUDING THE TOPIC OF FOOD AID AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION. BILL LONG MADE THE CASE THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S GRAIN MARKETING SYSTEM IS AN EFFICIENT ONE AND EFFECTIVELY MAKES AVAILABLE FOOD TO ALL AREAS IN ZIMBABWE. LONG LAMENTED THAT THE GRAIN MARKETING BOARD PAYS A PREMIUM PRICE FOR THE MAIZE IMPORTED UNDER THE PL 480 TITLE II PROGRAM WHILE BEING LIMITED ON THE RESALE PRICE. AT THE END OF THE LUNCH, BOND SHARED HIS VIEWS ON HIS PERCEPTION
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OF HOW ZIMBABWE IS VIEWED IN THE U.S. BOND ADDRESSED THE ISSUE OF THE GOZ'S EXTREME RHETORIC AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT IT IS NOT WELL RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON. BOND ALSO SPOKE CANDIDLY ON THE DAMAGE ZIMBABWE'S ACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA HAVE DONE TO ITS IMAGE IN THE U.S. AND EXPLAINED HOW SUCH ACTIONS ULTIMATELY AFFECT AID LEVELS. SEVERAL GUESTS RESPONDED TO BOND'S COMMENTS, INCLUDING MUSHAYAKARARA, WHO ASKED THAT THE U.S. FOCUS MORE ON WHAT OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS DO INSTEAD OF WHAT THEY SAY. OTHER GUESTS THANKED THE U.S. FOR ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND URGED THAT THE U.S. CONTINUE ITS AID. IN A FINAL COMMENT, BOND SPOKE OF HOW WELL THE U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WAS BEING USED IN ZIMBABWE AND DESCRIBED THE AID PROGRAM IN ZIMBABWE AS THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

6. ON JULY 19, BOND AND MCGHEE VISITED BELEVEDERE TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE, WHERE THEY MET WITH DEPUTY

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PRINCIPAL PETER DZVIMBO. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE COLLEGE'S EMPHASIS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN SECONDARY EDUCATION, THE GROUP TOURED THE COLLEGE, WHICH IS A 2,500-STUDENT INSTITUTION THAT BEGAN IN 1982 WHEN AID BEGAN FINANCING ITS CONSTRUCTION WITH LOCAL CURRENCY GENERATIONS OF Z\$15.5 MILLION. BOND AND MCGHEE SUBSEQUENTLY VISITED STAPELFORD FARM, WHICH IS LOCATED NORTHWEST OF HARARE. BOTH HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FARMER R. DAVENPORT'S VIEWS ON THE FARM'S OPERATIONS, ITS EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, THE PRICES PAID TO FARMERS, AND THEIR INCOME TAX LEVELS.

7. COMMENT: THE VISIT WENT WELL, WITH BOND AND MCGHEE GETTING A BROAD CROSS SECTION OF VIEWS FROM ZIMBABWEANS IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR. BOND AND MCGHEE'S HARD QUESTIONS AND CANDID OBSERVATIONS IMPRESSED THE ZIMBABWEANS WITH WHOM THEY MET AND WERE A BIG HELP TO US IN GETTING OUR MESSAGE ACROSS ON ZIMBABWE'S RHETORIC AND ACTIONS.

MILLER

END OF MESSAGE

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